Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is there any specific rule prescribing the shortest distance between two liquor shops, arrack shops, toddy shops, etc.?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—If the Member means by the question whether there is any rule, I will say there is no written rule. But the sites of the shops in some cases have been fixed in the schedule. That will show the distance between the shops. So there is some rule, Sir.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What is the rule?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is seen from the boundaries in the schedule.

President.—There is no general or particular rule that a shop should be located at a particular place, except what is laid down in the schedule.

Liquor shops in Kunnamkulam.

116. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to inform—

(a) how many liquor shops there are within Kunnamkulam Town limits; and

(b) the quantity of liquor (arrack, toddy and foreign liquor, separately) sold there annually for the last 6 years?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) Two arrack, two toddy and two F. L. shops.

(b) The quantity of arrack (35° U. P.) sold

in 1095	is	525	gallons.
,, 1096	is	540	,,
,, 1097	is	395	,,
,, 1098	is	406	,,
,, 1099	is	434	,,
,, 1100	is	406	,,

The information required with respect to toddy cannot be furnished, since it is not required to maintain accounts of its sale.

As to foreign liquor, the department does not maintain any record showing the quantities sold by the licensees. They are required to keep accounts during the currency of the lease, after the expiry of which the account books are taken away by them.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will any arrangement be made for knowing the the quantity of toddy sold?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I think some accounts should be kept to know whether the consumption of toddy is increasing or decreasing.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will it be done in future?

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President.—For the purpose of definite information on the point, cannot accounts be kept regarding the sale of toddy?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—For next year rules have already been framed and published. For the year after the next, I shall consider whether toddy shop-keepers also should be made to maintain accounts as in the case of arrack shop-keepers.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Do not licensees get the permission from the Superintendent when they import foreign liquor?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—They send applications for permission to import. There will be nothing in them to show what quantity they are going to import. It will be stated in them that they are going to import a certain number of bottles, a certain number of casks, etc. We do not know the capacity of the casks. That is why I was not able to give the quantity exactly.

President.—There must be some uniformity in the capacity of casks.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I shall look into the matter in future.

117. Mr. K. T. Mathew.— Will the Government be pleased to inform—

(a) whether the Government is aware that 2 foreign liquor shops are situated in the heart of Kunnamkulam Town;

(b) the distance between the two shops; and

(c) the reason for locating the two shops so very closely;

(d) whether the Government has any objection in closing both these shops in view of the various petitions and representations submitted to the Government for the removal of all the liquor shops from within Kunnamkulam Town limits?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) The Government are aware that there are two liquor shops in the Kunnamkulam bazaar.

(b) About 100 yards.

(c) The licensees can locate the shops anywhere in Kunnamkulam, according to the convenience of their trade.

(d) The Government do not consider that there are adequate grounds for closing these shops.

The Member is also referred to the answer given to question 441 of the last legislative session.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What are the adequate grounds that the Government deems necessary for the closing of these shops?

President.—What are the circumstances and the probabilities of the case it is impossible to answer.

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